

This weekend, the Democrats will pose as proud fathers of Medicare on its 30th anniversary.

But, when the prodigal son comes home facing imminent bankruptcy and desperately needing help, those proud parents turn their backs, close their minds, and close the door on America's senior citizens.

Where it comes to Medicare, the Democrats are deadbeat dads.

We urge the Democrats to join us as we work to strengthen Medicare for today's and tomorrow's retired Americans.

LET US GET TO THE TRUTH ON WACO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Federal agents say that cult leaders in Waco were liars, and that may be true. But something does not add up. It is now known that Federal officials came to learn that their so-called surprise raid had been leaked. They were expected to show at the compound. They knew that the surprise element was gone. That raid had danger and escalation written all over it like a neon sign, yet they sent in the troops. Four agents were killed.

Now, let us tell it like it is. Those cult leaders may have been liars, but those Federal agents and leaders have been lying through their teeth, stone cold lying through their teeth. They knew what was happening. They are lying to the American people, and Congress should not allow it.

From Potts down, this thing stinks. You know it. I know it. The American people know it.

Let us get to the truth.

IMPROVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is going broke. If we do nothing about it, in 7 years it will be totally bankrupt. But instead of backing reforms, some Members in this body want to play politics with this very important issue.

Let me share with you a letter I just received from a constituent:

I am sending the enclosed to you to add to your file of examples of the foolish and wasteful application of government personnel and funds. I would be embarrassed to present this check to my bank for processing.

And here is a check for 1 cent, sent to him as a Medicare B payment.

The Republican Party is determined to save Medicare. Mr. Speaker, we intend to create a Medicare system that offers the best care at the lowest cost. Together we will improve Medicare so that it can be protected and saved.

SENIORS WILL FIGHT FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, well, another day has passed without our Republican colleagues disclosing even a single detail of how they are going to hike health care costs for American seniors. What they have disclosed in a cynical memo are the details of how they are going to try to convince seniors that they are not in fact being had.

Yes, Speaker GINGRICH has turned to the same public relations firm that generated that all-time great campaign gimmick, the contract on Americans. And now they have produced an interesting document called, everything you ever wanted to know, not about saving Medicare, but about communicating Medicare.

And what does it tell us? It says: Do not talk about improving Medicare, Republican colleagues. We cannot afford to raise expectations.

Well, that is revealing. Then it goes on to say: Keep in mind that seniors are very pack oriented and very susceptible to being led.

When it comes to older Americans, I respect their intelligence as well as their pocketbook, and they are not going to be led in a pack off a cliff by a bunch of Republicans. They are going to fight for Medicare.

SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Texas once again comes to the well of the House playing politics with Medicare. Communicating Medicare? What is wrong with that idea? Standing up in town hall meetings saying: Friends, we have a problem, which three Cabinet-level secretaries, three appointees of the President admit that Medicare will go bankrupt in 7 years if we do nothing. What is wrong with that?

And taking time to rationalize and formalize a rational policy on Medicare, where is the crime there? Far better to be engaged with the American public, working to save the program of Medicare, than to march to the well of the House as so many of my liberal friends do trying to scare senior citizens.

The fact is, yes, we are trying to communicate the fact that we have to save Medicare. And, yes, we are engaged in trying to save the very program. Do not let the whine producers, W-H-I-N-E, come to the floor again and again and whine and complain.

Challenge them to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

MEDICARE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are accusing Democrats of scaring senior citizens. Seniors should be scared because we do not have a plan yet from the Republicans, only leaked documents that lead us to believe Republicans plan to cut the program substantially. And so I ask one question: Why the secret or the stealth attack on Medicare? Why are the Republicans proposing deep and devastating cuts in the programs for seniors over the next 7 years? Well, they would answer they are trying to save the program from bankruptcy. At least that is what they have been told to say by their pollsters. They are being told to tell them you are saving the program, but they are really gutting it.

Let us think back to the last session of Congress, the 103d session, when Republicans attacked the Democratic plan to shore up Medicare. I remember there was not one Republican vote that helped pass that plan.

Now let us ask: Why are you raiding Medicare to balance the budget while at the same time providing huge tax cuts that almost equal the same amount that you are cutting for Medicare over the next 7 years?

Frankly, if it were up to Republicans, Medicare would not even exist today. But for many years now, Medicare has proven time and time again that it is one of the true success stories of our Government. It has dramatically improved the health care of our seniors and never again will older Americans have to choose between health care and rent or food.

MEDICARE

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, once again, one more time we hear the liberal Democrats whining and crying. They go to great lengths to convince senior citizens that Republicans are going to hurt them. But instead of the overheated rhetoric, let us talk about the facts.

It is a fact that in the last Congress, liberal Democrats voted to increase taxes on seniors. Not one Republican voted for that tax increase. Earlier this year, the Republicans voted to give seniors a tax cut to allow the seniors to keep more of the money that they earn. What did the liberal Democrats do? They voted against the tax cut for seniors.

When the trustees of Medicare, including three members of Mr. Clinton's administration, reports that Medicare is going bankrupt, Republicans are stepping up, stepping up to the plate trying to fix Medicare and preserve this system for the next century.